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ZETTE is made from this new departure

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DEMOCRAT PUBLISHING CO.

FLOOD GATES OPENED.

Buffalo Creek Converted into a Roaring Torrent—People Waken to Find Escape Cut Off.

One Family of Nine Sons Drowned at Cleburne—Many Narrows Escapes.

The Loss Very Heavy.

Several Washouts Reported—M. T. Davis Delayed—Heavy Raines About Waco.

The Wichita and Colorado Up.

A Visitation of the Night.

CHELSEA, Tex., Aug. 30.—The greatest calamity that has ever befallen our city occurred this morning. It had been raining almost all night. Our citizens were lulled into peaceful slumber by the patter of the rain on the roofs. No dreams of danger disturbed them, but feeling that their anticipations of a good rain were being realized, they quietly rested in the arms of Morpheus till the clang of the fire bell at about 5 o'clock rang out.

THE DREADFUL TIDINGS

that all was well. Scores of people hurriedly donned their clothes and rushed into the streets, expecting probably to see some building on fire, but they were confronted with something which has proven more destructive to property and human life than all the fires that has ever occurred in our city. Looking towards West Buffalo a great sea of water could be seen. Cottages which had only yesterday stood near the banks of the creek HAD BEEN SWEEP AWAY

by the angry waves in their onward march to the sea, and families which had sat last night and talked in a happy strain of the great good being done, by the shower awoke this morning to find their houses swept away and themselves rising round down by the surging billows to a watery grave. Some were drowned and others narrowly escaped with their lives, losing their dwellings with their contents, not even saving

THEIR WEARING APPAREL.

At this writing it is impossible to get all the particulars. The following is a meager account of the damage done.

Mr. Seaman's house, which was situated on the west bank of the creek, just west of the Presbyterian church, was swept away and himself, wife and seven children were drowned. The dead body of his oldest boy was found in a ditch where the east and west Buffalo meet. Later on the bodies of Mrs. Seaman and two more of her children were found near where the two creeks join south of town.

Persons living near the creek saw the unfortunate man's house as it went down. There was a lamp burning in one of the rooms. The pitiful cries of "Help, help" could be heard, but no answer came.

IT WAS A HORRIFIC SIGHT.

West of the river five houses were submerged, but the damage is nominal. Railroad traveling or movement of trains is nearly suspended because of bridges and track washed away in various places. The Central Road is a heavy sufferer in this respect. Its Waco and Albany branches, where several miles of track and bridge are gone. No trains will move on this branch until to-morrow, at least. East of here the Central is all right and has moved its trains to-day. The Missouri Pacific brought in a train from Taylor this morning and sent one south this evening, but has not attempted to go north of Waco. The Cotton Belt had one train from the west but

ONE FROM THE EAST.

All three roads think they can move trains as usual by to-morrow.

Reports from adjacent towns are meager, owing to the prostration of telegraph wires. Every effort to communicate with Whitney, Hill county, to-day has failed, but reports received last night indicate considerable damage without any loss of life. There are several similar reports from Clifton and Burkburnett. The damage of farm products in the Brazos valley must necessarily be heavy.

SITUATION AT MORGAN.

MORGAN, Tex., Aug. 30.—The hardest rain that ever fell in this country was that which began at half past nine before last and continued without ceasing a moment until about noon yesterday. The damage to farmers in the low valley lands in every portion of the county is estimated at thousands of dollars. In the Tex. Central and the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe roads were damaged beyond measure, and it will be many days before either of them can move trains without delay of regularity. The wires on each side of the road from this city were down all yesterday and until 10 o'clock this morning. Gloomy and disturbing reports have reached here from different localities.

THE PUMP HOUSE WAS ALMOST SWEEP AWAY.

The pump house being almost all washed away, the foundation being almost all washed from under it. Had it not been for the timely arrival of Mr. W. D. Lockett, Mr. Whittenberg and Mr. Lyons, who sleep in the pump house, would have been drowned.

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WHEN PART OF THE FOUNDATION WAS WASHED AWAY THEY THOUGHT THE HOUSE WAS GOING AND JUMPED INTO THE WATER AND WERE BEING CARRIED DOWN THE STREAM VERY FAST WHEN MR. LOCKETT PLUNGED IN ON HIS HORSE, RODE ON SAVING THEM. THE HORSE AND RIDER WENT UNDER BEFORE THEY HAD GOT FAR BUT UNDAMENTED, Lockett kept on going. They went under a second time but he did not intend to turn back till he had saved their lives. He finally reached them and brought them safely to land.

BOTH THE EASY AND LOWER FOOT BRIDGES WERE WASHED AWAY.

Carrie's wagon yard and a house that stood in the corner of Tom Haywood's yard and new stable were completely destroyed, not a piece of either remaining to show that they had ever been there.

Mr. Vossong's fence, as well as D. J. Brown's and Charley Baird's, were washed away.

Messrs. Lyons, Cowley and Hall did some valuable work in getting Mr. Hawkins' family out of their house, which was about to be washed away.

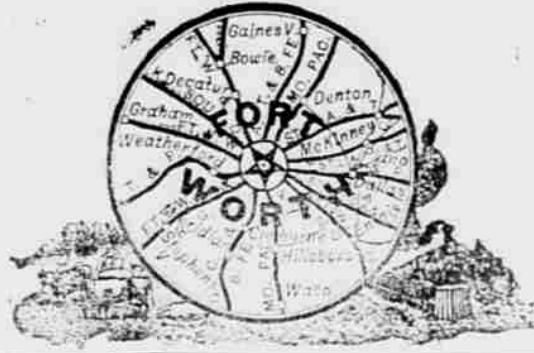
THE TWO RAILROAD BRIDGES, THE ONE ON EAST BUFFALO AND THE ONE SOUTH OF TOWN, WERE BOTH WASHED DOWN, AND THE TRACK ON THE DALLAS BRANCH WAS WASHED AWAY FOR ABOUT A QUARTER OF A MILE.

BRIDGE IN DANGER.

Special to the Gazette.

GALESVILLE, Tex., Aug. 30.—The Sants Fe bridge across the Wichita, in the Territory, is said to be much in danger of being swept away by the high water and

FORT WORTH TEXAS. FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 1877.



Weekly Gazette.

VOL. XVII: NO. 37.

MAKING IT AN ISSUE.

Commercial Relations Between the United States and Canada are Discussed at Detroit.

WISCONSIN OF NEW YORK, Butterworth of Ohio and Goldwin Smith of Canada are the Principal Speakers.

A Commercial Enter without a Purpose Attains Possible Great Advantages to the United States.

IN SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS Special to the Gazette.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Aug. 30.—Missouri Pacific trains are late to-night, owing to washouts north of here. There is fifteen feet rise in the Colorado river at this point.

TRADES ABANDONED.

Special to the Gazette.

GATESVILLE, Tex., Aug. 30.—All of the south-bound trains on the Santa Fe after 12 o'clock today were abandoned on account of the washout at Cleburne.

IN SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS Special to the Gazette.

BRIDGE, Mich., Aug. 30.—An effort is being made to discuss the commercial relations between Canada and the United States.

DETROIT, Mich., Aug. 30.—The rain still continues to come, and not the best news became clear. "Hold, enough!" All say when her go, Gallagher!

AT BURLINGTON Special to the Gazette.

RUMBLESON, Tex., Aug. 30.—The heaviest rain fell here last night, and we have had three in three days. Cotton prospects are fine for a top crop.

AT WHITEHORN Special to the Gazette.

WHITEHORN, Tex., Aug. 30.—The most rain fell here yesterday and to-day that has fallen for two years. The ground is thoroughly wet.

AT KORSE Special to the Gazette.

KORSE, Tex., Aug. 30.—A good rain fell all day yesterday, and our merchants are pleased. This insures a good top crop of cotton.

AT BURLINGTON Special to the Gazette.

KODAK, Tex., Aug. 30.—The heaviest rain fell here this morning, and there is more water in the ground than at any time in two years.

AT BURNTON Correspondence of the Gazette.

BURNTON, Tex., Aug. 30.—A slow drizzling rain has been falling since Monday morning, and for August the weather is very cool.

AT TERRELL Special to the Gazette.

TERRELL, Tex., Aug. 30.—A gentle rain began falling here about 10 o'clock last night and continued until to-day about noon.

AT FARMERSVILLE Special to the Gazette.

FARMERSVILLE, Tex., Aug. 30.—We had a heavy rain last night. Crops are good.

IT WAS A FRESHET.

THE CLEAR WATER GETS ON ONE OF THE BIGGEST RIVERS IN ITS HISTORY.

Hundreds of people went down to look at the river Tuesday. It was rather a novel sight, a foaming, whirling mass of water that floated huge trees and logs along, as lightly as straws. The rain of the night before did the work. Early in the morning the rise began, and soon attained a foot an hour. It rose steadily, driving out campers in the low grounds adjacent to the river, until at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, good judges placed the maximum rise at twenty-five feet. When this point had been reached, the waters began falling and at 1 o'clock this morning had gone down seven feet. The main rise was in the Clear Fork. The rise that followed in the West Fork did not materialize, as was expected, but the torrent that the other stream poured down was sufficient for all practical purposes. The bottom lands on both sides of the river were submerged for many yards.

The water works down pumping for several hours, in order to change to high pressure, on account of the floods, but everything will go on as usual this morning. So far no loss of life has been reported along either stream.

AT MONTGOMERY Special to the Gazette.

MONTGOMERY, Tex., Aug. 30.—For the past week the country has been blessed with fine rains which have caused the grass to grow green and supply the stock and cattle with plenty of water. But the rain we have had for a great while has been entirely broken, and if we are only assured of the fact would possess a different spirit, at any rate we are relieved of the drought for a while.

AT GRANBURY Special to the Gazette.

GRANBURY, Tex., Aug. 30.—The best rain visited this vicinity last night that has fallen in Hood county this year, which will greatly benefit gardens and the stock range. We feel now as if the drought was entirely broken, but if we are only assured of the fact would possess a different spirit, at any rate we are relieved of the drought for a while.

AT DENISON Special to the Gazette.

DENTON, Tex., Aug. 30.—A soaking rain fell here yesterday, and our merchants are pleased. This insures a good top crop.

AT DALLAS Special to the Gazette.

DALLAS, Tex., Aug. 30.—Good rains have fallen in some sections near town, but rain is still needed in some localities. The weather is cool and cloudy.

AT WICHITA FALLS Special to the Gazette.

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